

Rustic cabinet

Materials:

- 3' - 1x8 cedar
- 6' - 1x6 cedar decking
- Tongue-in-groove pine or cedar (or bead board if you can get it) - you don't need much, and it is often sold in packs, so you might have to make several cabinets to amortize your tongue-in-groove investment
- 2" copper boat nails and 'roves' - available at Lee Valley Tools (www.leevalley.com) or at a boat-building supply house



- 1 1/2" copper boat nails (for attaching copper handles to cabinet)
- 1/4 inch flexible copper tubing - available in the plumbing section of your home center
- Shelf-support pins
- Brass hinges - the thickness of your doors will determine the size of the hinges you buy - the ones we used are 2" x 1/2"

Tools

- Measuring tape
- Speed square
- Saw
- Pencil
- Drill
- Safety glasses
- Non-skid vinyl mat, or clamps
- Hammer
- Ballpein hammer
- Bullnose nippers or End nippers
- Awl
- Screwdriver

Tools you might not be familiar with

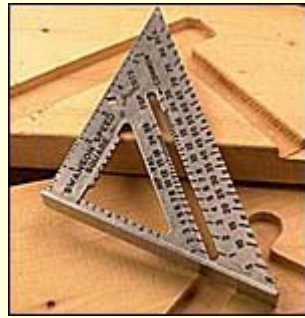


Ballpein Hammer

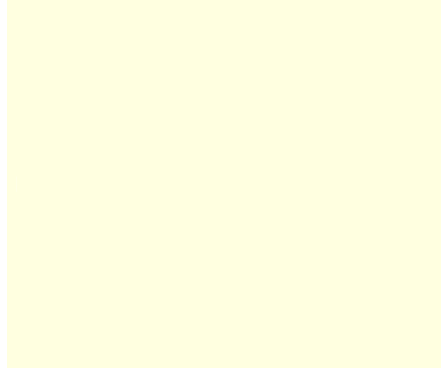


Bullnose nippers

Non-skid vinyl mat



Speed Square



Cut list:

- Doors (1x8 cedar) - two 18" boards
- Cabinet sides (1x6 cedar) - two 17" boards
- Cabinet top, bottom and shelf (1x6 cedar) - three 12 1/2" boards
- Backing (tongue-in-groove) - 17" lengths, enough boards to cover opening of 12 1/2"

Tips:

- When you buy lumber, the shortest length of board available is usually six feet, so you may be stuck with extra scraps of the 1x8 material you need for the cabinet doors. Also, bear in mind that lumber mills usually skimp on dimensions, so a 1" x 8" board usually measures 3/4" x 7 1/4".
- Because materials vary from region to region, you may not be able to get some of the materials used on the show. So the trick is to cut the doors first, and lay them flat with a 1/8" gap between them. Measure across the width of the doors (including the 1/8" gap), and let that measurement determine the width of your cabinet. Then you can cut the pieces for the frame to the appropriate lengths with whatever lumber you are able to get in your area.
- The doors are cut a bit taller (18") than the 17" frame to give the cabinet a more polished look.
- The cedar decking that is specified in this project is a

full inch in thickness, but standard 1x6 cedar boards are only 3/4". If you can only get the thinner 3/4" material in your area, that's fine, but the cabinet won't end up being quite as wide, so measure your doors first! (see above)

Steps:



Marking Cedar with speed square



Cutting Cedar with Japanese saw



Marking the sides for drilling the peg holes

Lay the two sidepieces out on your work surface. Measure and mark matching pairs of holes on the two 17" cabinet sides. These holes will hold the shelf-support pins.



Detail of a Brad Point Drill Bit



Drilling the Peg Holes



Drilling for the Copper Nails

Clamp the boards in place or use a non-skid vinyl mat, and then drill the holes the right diameter and depth to fit your shelf-support pins.



Copper nail with rove



Hammering in the first copper nail



Hammering in the last copper nail

Pre-drill and then nail each corner of the cabinet frame together, using copper nails. Use a speed square to make sure the cabinet is square. If not, reef on it to pull it into alignment.



Bead Board example



Tongue-in-groove example



Fitting the Bead Board backing on the frame



Attaching the Bead Board backing

Center the backing boards on the cabinet frame, and then nail them in place once they're lined up nicely.



Copper tubing door pulls



Making the door pulls using a round jig

Make cool handles out of flexible copper by bending the tubing around a cylindrical object (even a jar works fine). Then, using a ballpeen hammer, or even just a regular hammer, pound the tube-ends flat on a hard surface (the flat top of a vise works well if you don't happen to have an

anvil).

Now drill one small hole in each end of the handle, so you can affix it to the cabinet doors. (Before you drill the hole, it helps to make a dimple in the copper using a hammer and nail; the dimple will prevent the drill bit from skating around on the hard metal.)



Using copper nails to attach the door pulls



Cutting off the end of the nail using the bull-nose nippers



The copper door pulls attached

Attach the handles to the cabinet doors using copper nails. The nails will be too long, so snip the sharp ends off flush with the inside surface of the cabinet door, using bull-nose nippers.



Cabinet assembly with door overhang and side configuration



Detail of cabinet assembly with door overhang



Attaching the hinge to the door

Attach the brass hinges to the cabinet doors, using an ice pick or awl to mark a starter hole for each screw. Use a hand screwdriver rather than a power drill to drive the screws, because brass is so soft it will strip if you use a power tool on the delicate heads.



Attaching the doors using a pile of books for support



The finished cabinet

Now attach the hinged doors to the cabinet. Use a pile of books to hold the door level while screwing on the hinges, and try to create a slight gap between the inside edges of the doors so they don't bind on each other. If they do bind, plane the inside edges using a hand plane, or coarse sandpaper.